

POLICE PROTECT BROADWAY HOTEL FROM FIREBUG

Discharged Employee Is
Suspected of Being
the Incendiary.

JEROME HAS THEORY.

Thinks Fires May Have Been
Part of Plot to Free
Prisoners.

HOW FIRES OCCURRED IN BROADWAY HOTEL.

8:30 P. M.—Fire in a pile of oil-soaked rags in a corner of the engine room, and put out by a steward.

9:30 P. M.—Bellboy discovered a blazing curtain on the second floor. Smoke went to all parts of the hotel and frightened guests before the fire was put out.

10:30 P. M.—Fire started in a toilet room, and when discovered there was a strong smell of oil. Guests were again frightened.

11:30 P. M.—Curtain blazed on the second floor, after a globe had been removed from a gas jet. Guests ran to the hotel office in fright.

Detectives began searching to-day for an elevator man who was discharged yesterday at the Broadway Central Hotel for impudence to guests. He was seen hanging about the house shortly before the first of the four incendiary fires which occurred there last night had been discovered. The firebug had first tampered with the alarm system to make it useless.

It is recalled that the Broadway Central has suffered from arson visitations before. In 1902, when Edward J. Farley, the pyromaniac was arrested, he confessed to setting fire nine times to the Hotel Astor. Farley was also an elevator man. He proved to be a pyromaniac for starting fires and then extinguishing them, thereby getting a chance to pose as a hero. Detectives tracing his record found that while he worked as an elevator man at the Broadway Central there had been three suspicious fires there. In all Farley was directly connected with twenty-one fires.

Sent to Elmira.

He was sent to Elmira, where he remained until a few months ago. Inspector McLaughlin sent out men to look for him to-day when he learned the details of the latest series of incendiary blazes at the hotel.

Another and a more startling theory accounting for the fires has been suggested at the Criminal Court Building. There are quartered at the Broadway Central Hotel, in custody of men from the District-Attorney's office, three parolees prisoners. One of these prisoner's name is Benjamin Goldscozer, who is mixed up in the alleged forgery of names in the Hearst election petitions. Last night these three men were guarded by County Detectives Hammond, Dillon, Roberts and Martin.

One of the prisoners was observed to act very peculiarly last night before the first of the four fires was discovered, and it is being suggested that there was a possible plot to kindle the blazes and give the three men a chance to escape in the excitement.

The Hotel Guarded.

On every floor of the hotel to-day a policeman was walking up and down, and detectives were doing the same.

That all of the fires were incendiary there is no doubt in the minds of the police and firemen.

One policeman, in making his investigations, asked if David Oliver, husband

MENTAL TACT vs. HAND MAGIC



WOMAN WHO SUES FOR POSSESSION OF LOVE LETTERS.



GOES TO COURT TO GET HOLD OF LOVE LETTERS

Mrs. Ridley Says that
Young Proctor Took
Them from Her.

Frederick F. Proctor, Jr., young son of the millionaire theatrical proprietor, was made defendant to-day in a singular suit in which Mrs. Rose E. Ridley, wife of a Wall street lawyer, asked for an injunction to restrain Mr. Proctor from "removing, transferring, mutilating or destroying" any of 250 letters, messages and telegrams sent to her during the period between June, 1901, and September, 1904. Two hundred of the letters begin "Mother dear" and "Darling Sweetheart."

Mrs. Ridley is a strikingly pretty young woman of about twenty-two, and she appeared before Justice Maddox in the Brooklyn Supreme Court when her lawyer, Louis Eisenberg, applied for an injunction. She was handsomely attired in a blue sailor-made suit and a sailor hat supporting a spray of flowers.

She was born in England and lived there until twelve years ago, when she came to this country. Her father, a well-known attorney, died in New York.

When she was still a young girl she wanted to go on the stage. Her parents would not hear of it, and she gave up the idea.

Then, before leaving the courtroom, the dashing young woman told some of the story of her life.

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